

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Ruth Marie Sparks was born on August 27, 1920, to Harry and Minnie Sparks at Sparks Farm, located southwest of Armour, South Dakota, the youngest of seven children and the only child with red hair and freckles; and,

Whereas, Ruth married Merrill DeWald on December 25, 1941, and to this union, two daughters were born, Linda and Nila, who in turn blessed them with 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Ruth attended Southern State Normal School at Springfield, South Dakota, graduating with a 1-year teaching certificate, taught at Sparks country school, Choteau Creek country school northeast of Wagner, worked in the jewelry store in Wagner, helped Merrill with the DeWald Motor business for many years, and started her own business, the This and That consignment store; and,

Whereas, Ruth has been an active member of the United Methodist Church of Wagner for 52 years, United Methodist Women, Rebeccah Lodge, Eastern Star, Wagner Historical Society, Hospital Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary, VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and a 25-year member of TOPS; and,

Whereas, Ruth is known for her smoked baked beans, pecan pie, and plate collection from the 50 states which she collected while traveling with Merrill; and,

Whereas, Ruth enjoys genealogy work, has researched and compiled shelves of books, pictures, and family information for both sides of the family, works crossword puzzles, and has made quilts for all her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and,

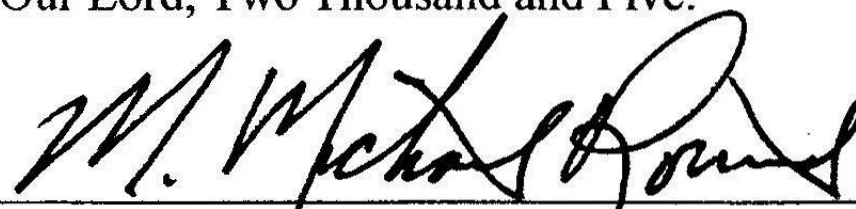
Whereas, Ruth will observe her 85th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as the ladies of her family gather to honor her and celebrate her life and the camaraderie of the day by visiting Armour, South Dakota, her parents farm, and grandparents homestead farm; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 27, 2005, as


RUTH DEWALD DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all her many friends and relatives in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventeenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

